State channelising agencies for providing employment/income generating assets on subsidised loan to members of the STs. Reservations in employment are also provided to the STs under the constitution. It is further intended that different programmes for improving literacy amongst the STs and providing them with opportunities for vocational education and training will help them to cross the poverty line in coming years.

A Central Planning Committee (CPC) under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Welfare has been in existence since 1993 to monitor preventive measures against deaths of children in remote and backward tribal areas. This Committee, in consultation with the State Governments, has identified 369 Blocks in 52 districts in 13 States which include Melghat Forest Area as vulnerable in this respect and where measures are required to prevent such occurence. The concerned State Governments are required to prepare specific action plans for this purpose and to operationalise and implement these plans in identified areas, rtgirously, particularly during the hardship season from May to September, every year. The measures to be taken under the action plans include setting up of early warning systems, and intensification of programmes in basic areas such as drinking water, health services, nutrition, public distribution system and employment generation. The concerned Central Ministries/Departments such as Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Food Procurement and Distribution, Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution are expected to monitor the action taken in this regard by the concerned Departments in the respective State Governments.

Welfare schemes/programmes for providing employment to SCs/STs minorities etc

2159. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Welfare Schemes/ Programmes being implemented in the country for providing employment to the persons belonging to SCs/STs/ Minorities/OBCs, and terrorist affected widows/children;

(b) the amount allocated for the aforesaid purpose during the period from 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(c) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b) Details of Welfare Schemes/Programmes being implemented by the Ministry of Welfare alongwith amount allocated for the same during the last three years is given in the attached Statement. (*See* below). No such scheme for terrorist affected widows/children

are implemented by the Ministry of Welfare.

(c) The implementation of the schemes is reviewed periodically and are effectively monitored to ensure that the benefits reach the target groups.

Statement

Welfare Schemes/Programmes being implemented by the Ministry of welfare for Providing Employment to SCs/STs/Minorities and OBCs

(*Rs. in Crores*)

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount Allocated During		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1.	Financial assistance from National Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC)	65.00	65.00	96.00
2.	Financial assistance from National Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC)	39.00	42.00	47.00
3.	Financial assistance from National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMFDC) . .	39.00	36.00	41.00

Amount sanctioned under the scheme of post matric scholarship for SCs and STs

2160. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 65 crores have been allocated during the year 1997-98 which is less than half of the amount sanctioned during 1996-97 under the scheme of post Matric scholarship for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes students in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the funding pattern of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-matric Scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, 100% central assistance is provided to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, for the expenditure over and above their respective committed liability. The expenditure reached at the end of the Five Year Plan period becomes committed liability of State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, which is borne by them during each year of the succeeding Five Year Plan period. Accordingly, the likely total expenditure of Rs. 364.75 crores, as reported by State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for the year 1996-97, which was the last year of the Eighth Five Year Plan, becomes their committed liability. Therefore, out of the estimated total expenditure of Rs. 421.34 crores in 1997-98, the likely committed liability of Rs. 364.75 crores of State Governments and Union Territory Administrations,